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The Educational Council

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HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR "OUTSIDE" MUSICAL STUDY PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH ITS STANDARDIZATION

Several problems seem inseparably connected with the granting of high school credit for the study of specialized musical technic under outside teachers. A statement of these problems, as they confronted the Educational Council, will help to an understanding of the report which was finally submitted by the Council and adopted by the Conference at Nashville in March, 1922.

All agree that any work credited must be of proper standard. Two methods of standardizing usually present themselves: one to have a prescribed list of studies and pieces and the other to have an accredited list of teachers whose work would be accepted. There are objectionable features with either plan. It is a piece of pure presumption for any power short of the state to endorse certain teachers and discredit others; and the individual who usurps such authority is likely to have plenty of occasion to regret it. To have prescribed lists of teaching material is much more sensible, but still



CHARLES H. FARNSWORTH

is imperfect in results. In the first place, material is not standardized as to grade, except for piano. It is extremely difficult to secure agreement among teachers as to what would constitute second grade or second year material in voice, for instance. Again, when you standardize the material you have not defined or standardized the manner of playing, and this is very difficult to define in terms so precise that different groups of examiners

would evaluate the same sort of performance in equal terms. There is further the individual variation in type of material that can be successfully used by different teachers and with different pupils.

It may well be that the one thing to be standardized is the attainment as shown on examination. Granted examiners of unquestioned knowledge and entire freedom from personal or professional prejudice and sound evaluations of work could be expected. This implies, in essence, standardizing examiners rather than standardiz-

ing teachers or standardizing material. It implies further that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, that the only way to decide whether a pupil has earned credit is to examine into what he has accomplished, and that the verdict then hinges on the kind of examiner who turns in the verdict. Putting the problem this way, I think a satisfactory solution is more easily reached. Musicians of unquestioned and authoritative knowledge in all lines of instrumental playing may be secured in almost any locality to serve as examiners. Measures may easily be taken by which the special students and their teachers are protected from any personal or professional prejudice that might lurk in the minds of these expert examiners. Their verdicts may then be taken as trustworthy and no educational institution need feel that it is lowering scholarship standards if it awards

credit on the basis of the examiners' reports.

It is very desirable, in addition, to formulate lists of teaching material appropriate to the various years of instruction in piano, violin and every special technical subject. Such lists serve to spread knowledge and intelligent outlook among the ranks of young and inexperienced teachers and will aid in standardizing all lines of special teaching, once they have become current. Such lists the Educational Council expects to formulate and add to its present report. But meanwhile the plan now adopted by the Conference is, in my estimation, almost completely satisfactory; for it ensures the rating by authoritative and unprejudiced musicians of the work of any student which is submitted to our educational authorities as worthy for consideration as to its receiving school credit.

FROM THE TREASURER

To State Chairmen:

This is addressed to State Chairmen, but it is for all who read. I greet you most cordially. With all the work that has come in I am managing to "keep sweet." The position of treasurer is a "job" and I am about to tell you some ways that you can help with the work. If I thought there would be only the work of the past years to take care of I would not have to call on you, but from the appearance of things at this writing it looks as tho we would make the slogan of "2000 members for 1923" look small.

First: Get your membership renewals in soon and relieve some of the work at Cleveland.

Second: Send in an application card with your check.

Third: Make your checks to A. Vernon McFee, Treasurer.

There are only three requests and of the three the last is the one most often overlooked. If you make your check to me as treasurer I have to endorse it only

once, but if you leave the treasurer off I am forced to sign at least twice; and I don't write well enough for that.

Now that the main load is off my mind, let me use some more space to congratulate Mr. Frank Percival and his Committee over in Indiana. They have already sent in a large percent of the state, and the great thing about the work is that of the number sent in almost half are new members. Lets all do that, and in the meantime I am yours to Cleveland and back,

EVERY SOUTHERN SUPERVISOR

Do Three things today:

1. Plan to be in Atlanta December 14-16.
2. Send names and addresses of Southern supervisors to Mr. Weaver.
3. Send 25c to Miss Alice Bivins, Greensboro, N. C.